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(*e*) Every endeavour will be made to provide the discharged men with suitable employment elsewhere. Such of those as cannot be provided with employment will be retired in accordance with the rules in the Civil Service Regulations.

(*f*) The question of the redistribution was not placed before the Public Works Department Advisory Committee as the Government did not consider this necessary.

*Election of district board presidents.*

720 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government intend to confer on any district board or boards the franchise of electing its or their own president; and if so, which of them?

A.—The Government do not propose to issue any general order at present. Applications received from individual boards will be considered on their merits.

*Alleged famine conditions in Anantapur district.*

721 Q.—Mr. P. Siva Rao: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Revenue Divisional Officer of Penukonda framed certain charges against the village officers of Agali in the Madakasira taluk for inducing ryots to put in applications for takkavi loans and for making certain alleged false reports as to the prevalence of famine conditions in their villages; and called upon them to appear before him on 29th November 1922 and show cause why they should not be punished; what has been the result of these proceedings; and whether the Government will be pleased to call for the papers and lay them on the table of the House;

(*b*) whether there is any difference on the question of the existence of famine conditions between the Revenue Divisional Officer and the Local Member of the Legislative Council Mr. T. Sivasankaram; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to order an independent inquiry in the same matter?

A.—(*a*) The Government understand that the Revenue Divisional Officer took proceedings against certain village officers whom he suspected of inducing ryots to take loans with the object of taking commission and that the proceedings have been subsequently dropped. The Government do not think that any useful purpose will be served by calling for the papers and laying them on the table.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) A resolution on the same matter has been tabled and the Government will explain their attitude when that resolution is discussed.